

Good Neighbor Environmental Board ROUND-UP

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

Volume 4, Number 3
May 2003



Good Neighbor Board News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
May 2003 Round-Up*

Upcoming 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

July 30-31 Del Rio, Texas
October 22-23 San Diego, California

Next Board Meeting in Del Rio to Explore Environment/ Economy Interplay

The Board will be welcomed by one of its own -- Del Rio, Texas Mayor Dora Alcalá -- at its upcoming meeting in her community on July 30th -31st. Mayor Alcalá was appointed to the Board by EPA Administrator Whitman earlier this year, and she now is playing an important role in preparations for the session along with her planning committee colleagues. The meeting theme, which is the interplay between the environment and the economy, will be addressed on the first day by speakers from different sectors from both sides of the border. The second day of the meeting will be devoted to routine business. Meeting site and other details are being finalized.

Board Member Laura Yoshii Co-Chairs Border 2012 Workgroup Meeting

Board member Laura Yoshii, who is Deputy Regional Administration for the EPA Region 9 Office in San Francisco, co-chaired the first Regional Workgroup meeting of the Border 2012 Program in Calexico, California, on May 29th. Her co-chairs included Carlos de la Parra, SEMARNAT delegado for Baja California, Jorge Escobar Martinez, Director of State of Baja Department of Ecology, and Winston Hickox, Secretary of Cal-EPA. Members of the public and officials from the California/Baja California area of the border came together to discuss what the priority projects should be for this part of the border as Border 2012 begins to be implemented (*see separate story under Border News*).

Board Member Nancy Sutley Appointed to CA Water Board

California Governor Gray Davis has appointed Board member Nancy Sutley to the State Water Resources Control Board. She serves as the Deputy Secretary for Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Sixth Report Is Distributed Border-Wide and to Executive, Legislative Branch Officials

Board members and OCEM staff are continuing to distribute hundreds of copies of the Board's recently released Sixth Report to the President and Congress. Recipients include policy makers and interested readers throughout the border region as well as Administration officials and Congressional representatives.

Recent venues for distribution have included the annual border-region NGO event, Encuentro Fronterizo; the Border 2012 California-Baja California Regional Workgroup meeting; and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association meeting. Also targeted mailings have been sent to the Executive Branch and Congressional committees. The report is available on the Board's website at www.epa.gov/ocem or by calling 800-490-9198 and requesting publication number EPA 130-R-03-001.

Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.

Border Region & National News

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Air Quality - EPA scientists, in collaboration with the German Research Center for Environment and Health, have identified metals as components in air pollution that may affect the severity of asthma. See <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov>

BECC - For its June 18th meeting in Brownsville, BECC will consider certifying water conservation projects from the following irrigation districts in Texas and New Mexico: Brownsville, Harlingen Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and Elephant Butte. It also will consider other types of projects in Marathon Texas; Del Rio, Texas; Las Cruces and Dona Ana County, New Mexico, and Somerton, Arizona. For its June 19th meeting in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, it will consider a project from that same community. See www.cocof.org

Border 2012 Program - The first of a series of Regional Workgroup meetings under the Border 2012 Program took place at the San Diego State Imperial Valley Campus library in Calexico, California, on May 29th. This workgroup, called the California-Baja California Workgroup, is one of four that have been set up to carry out activities at different points along the border. For the Calexico meeting, Border 2012 Program officials briefed attendees on the status of the Program, invited them to join task forces that would carry out projects on behalf of their Regional Workgroup, and explained the process for submitting ideas for potential projects to be funded. Members of the public told officials their priorities for which projects should be carried out along their part of the border under Border 2012. The next meeting of this Workgroup will take place in the fall, with communications going out in the meantime on formation of Task Forces and other activities.

Children's Health - The CEC has released for public comment a set of recommendations for developing children's health and the environment indicators for North America. Deadline for comments: June 2nd. See www.cec.org

Drinking Water - EPA, in conjunction with U.S. states, recently announced completion of 32,000 assessments of lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and aquifers that provide drinking water to communities across the country. See www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html

Energy Conservation - Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson, AZ was among 18 VHA hospitals across the country recognized by EPA for their superior energy efficiency under the Energy Star Program. See www.energystar.gov

EPA Administrator - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman has tendered her resignation as Administrator of the Agency, effective June 27, 2003.

IBWC - The U.S. section of the IBWC is seeking applications from community members to fill vacancies on the Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum, which covers Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, Arizona. **Deadline: June 20.** Contact: Sally Spener: (915) 832-4175.

NADB- The North American Development Bank has announced 20 projects that may be eligible for grant resources from the NADB Water Conservation Investment Fund. Funding is contingent upon certification by BECC and the NADB Board's approval of specific financing proposals. NADB also has approved a loan for wastewater system improvements in Desert Shores, CA, which is located on the western coast of the Salton Sea in an unincorporated area of Imperial County. In addition, it has signed a water and wastewater grant agreement for Heber, CA. See www.nadb.org

Power Plants - A federal judge has ruled that the U.S. Department of Energy acted illegally in determining that two Mexicali power plants, operated by Sempra and Intergeren, would not significantly affect the cross-border region's air and water quality. The ruling calls into question the U.S. permits they have been given to build their cross-border transmission lines. The plants had been scheduled to begin exporting electricity to California this summer.

*Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes.****

<p>Events Calendar <i>from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board May 2003 Round-Up</i></p>

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| June 5 | Border 2012 AZ-Sonora Regional Workgroup meeting, Tucson, AZ |
| June 9-10 | U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity conference, San Francisco, CA |
| June 10 | IBWC Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum meeting, Weslaco, TX |
| June 12-13 | Institute of the Americas Water Conference, La Jolla, CA, and Tijuana, MX |
| June 18 | BECC Board meeting, Brownsville, Texas |
| June 19 | BECC Board meeting, Matamoros, Tamaulipas |
| June 20 | Towards Sustainable Trade in the Americas? Lessons from Mexico symposium, Washington, DC Contact: cr@texascenter.org |
| June 24-25 | North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Annual Council Session, Washington, DC See www.cec.org |
| June 24 | Air Waste Management Association meeting, San Diego, CA |
| June 27-28 | Consejo Consultivo NW Region meeting. Contact: iazuz@ens.cetys.mx |
| July 10 | Border 2012 TX-New Mexico/Chihuahua Workgroup meeting, Ciudad Juarez, CH |
| July 30-31 | GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TX |
| July 30-Aug 1 | Conference: Water Security in the 21 st Century, Washington, DC Contact: mskerly@siu.edu |

Aug 6-8 Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX
 Aug 12-15 RCRA National Meeting, Washington, D.C. See www.epa.gov/osw/meeting
Aug 28 Border 2012 TX/Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas Workgroup meeting, Laredo, TX
 Sept 14-17 ACHMM Conference on Hazardous Materials Management, Dallas TX www.achmm.org
Oct Border 2012 National Coordinators Meeting, Mexico City
 Oct 19-22 National Pesticides Stewardship Alliance Conference, Tucson, AZ See www.npsalliance.org
OCT 22-23 **GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA**
 Oct 26-29 Texas Recycling Summit, Galveston Island, TX www.recycletx.com
 Nov 5-6 Texas A&M Water Summit, Austin, TX <http://agsummit.tamu.edu>
 Dec 3-4 CDC: 6th National Environmental Health Conference, Atlanta, GA

2004
Feb 11-13 SCERP Annual Conference, Laredo, TX See www.scerp.org

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